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(57) [Abstract]

[Object] To provide a document transfer method that automatically transfers received documents, such as electronic mail and Web pages, to another apparatus using a different format, and a document processing apparatus that realizes the method.

[Solving Means] Transfer instructions are stored beforehand correspondingly to reception conditions (301). When electronic mail or a Web page is received, a reception condition is analyzed at least from the received document (303), and the analyzed reception condition is compared with each reception condition stored beforehand. If both reception conditions coincide with each other (300), based on a corresponding instruction stored, the received document is converted (305) into a format matching a receiver, and is transferred (307) by using a protocol (309) matching the receiver.

[Claims]

[Claim 1] A document transfer method for transferring a document received as electronic mail or a Web page to a plurality of receivers of transmission such as electronic mail transmission and file transfer through a facsimile line and a network,

wherein the method comprising the steps of:

storing transfer instructions beforehand correspondingly to reception conditions;
and

when electronic mail or a Web page is received, performing an analysis of a reception condition from at least the received document and comparison of the analyzed reception condition with each reception condition stored beforehand, and, if both reception conditions coincide with each other, performing conversion of the received document into a format matching the receivers based on a corresponding instruction stored beforehand, and transfer of the converted document by using a protocol matching the receivers.

[Claim 2] The document transfer method according to Claim 1, wherein, when the received document is electronic mail, the reception conditions include at least one of a sender's electronic mail address, a recipient's electronic mail address, a reproduction

recipient's electronic mail address, an electronic mail's subject, an electronic mail's body, a

reception time, the number of pages of the body, the presence or absence of an attachment file, etc., and these conditions are analyzed from the received electronic mail.

[Claim 3] The document transfer method according to Claim 1, wherein, when the received document is electronic mail, the transfer instructions each include an address to which the received electronic mail is to be transferred, a format permitted by a receiver, and the protocol required by the receiver.

[Claim 4] The document transfer method according to Claim 3, wherein the protocol required by the destination includes a communication protocol and a print protocol.

[Specification]

[0023] Fig. 3 is a schematic block diagram showing a functional example of a document processing apparatus according to the first embodiment. The function of each functional unit in Fig. 3 is realized such that a program in the HD drive (205) is loaded into the RAM (203), and the CPU (201) executes the program while using resources in the apparatus. The electronic mail receiving unit (302) receives electronic mail sent to one or more receivers by accessing the electronic mail server (102) with one or more accounts by using the POP protocol, and sends the received electronic mail, which has a text data form, and an electronic mail reception time to the mail attribute analyzing unit (303). The mail attribute analyzing unit (303) analyzes the input electronic mail, extracts attributes (a sender, a receiver, a reproduction receiver, a subject, etc.) obtained by analyzing the header part of the electronic mail and attributes (the presence or absence of an attachment file, the number of characters of the body excluding the attachment file, etc.) obtained by analyzing the body, and sends the attributes as operation search conditions to the conditional search unit (300) together with the electronic mail reception time.

[0026] Condition lines include, in addition to the above-described lines, a Received keyword representing a reception time range, a Pages keyword for using the number of pages of the body as a condition, and a Default keyword representing a default condition. Description in the case of the Received keyword is that "Received from a start day and time to an end day and time". Regarding designation of a day and time, a time and day of

week can be designated as well as a time and date. A Pages keyword is such that a number

obtained by dividing the number of characters in the body of electronic mail excluding an attachment file by a predetermined constant is used as the number of pages and the number of pages is used as a condition. The Pages keyword is written as "Pages < n" or "Pages > n", where n is the number of pages, the former uses the number of pages being less than n as a condition, and the latter uses the number of pages being greater than n as a condition. The Pages keyword can use the presence or absence of an attachment file as a condition in the following description: "Pages include Attachment" and "Pages doesntInclude Attachment", where the former uses inclusion of an attachment file as a condition, and the latter uses no inclusion of an attachment file as a condition.